

Series I
Correspondence,
1932-1973

Box 3, Folder 12

April 14, 1959 -
June 16, 1959

0304

12 Mount Vernon Street
Newport, Rhode Island

April 14, 1959

Mr. Earl Thacker
Earl Thacker & Company
Kalakua Avenue
Honolulu, Oahu
T.H.

Dear Earl:

I have been waiting for a chance to obtain the services of a prominent and charming secretary before I wrote to you. I wanted to say a lot, and in a natural way; and this I cannot do with a pen--at least the Bohemian Club pen.

I wrote a letter to Don Felt the other day, in which I told him you were expecting to have him up to your ranch and for heaven's sake to go; but whether he can read the letter I don't know.

I was astonished at myself, but the pens in the Bohemian Club seem unsuitable for the pads on which one writes. This is probably my fault, as I press.

In the first place, I want to tell you that since I left Hawaii I have spent a week in Palm Springs and another week in Pebble Beach. I don't think I saw anybody of any particular interest to you in either place, excepting that in Pebble Beach I saw Paul Winslow and had a long talk with Ruth on the phone. Ruth, unfortunately, has a very bad cold.

The principal news I got from the Winslows was the fact that Paul Fagan had suffered a heart attack--the paper said a stroke, and there is a difference--but was recovering very well, indeed. I also heard that Helene was carrying herself, as might be expected, in beautiful fashion, despite this unfortunate occurrence. Best information seems to be that Paul will be all right.

I am going back to Newport, Rhode Island, the end of the week by United Airlines. I will find out then exactly

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Mr. Earl Thacker
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what is in the air regarding my work there. Since my return from Hawaii I have received a letter from the Historian of the Navy relative thereto; and I have to make some estimates as to time, manpower, and means of proceeding. This I will do next week.

Now we will revert to yourself. First, I want to say I was delighted at your success out there. As you know, I never had a doubt but that you would be successful because you have a kind of natural gift for making friends, for doing things for people and having them confident that you will do your best for them, and that that best will be good.

Needless to say though, I was somewhat surprised at the greatness of your success so early. Evidently you have been a tremendous success, particularly in Hawaiian life. I am very pleased to think that I was at one time a partner, even though silent.

I enjoyed greatly all the courtesies that you extended to me. I liked very much visiting the ranch on Koko Head, and I even enjoyed my ride on Kausi Boy. The ride shook me rather severely, and I realized then that part of my flesh wasn't entirely necessary. In fact, if you may recollect, it was this point that I announced that I needed a brassiere. (Of course, I don't need one any more than other fellows my age.) Nevertheless, next time I go horseback riding, I will get a horse that will walk or gallop.

I liked your office and I thought that it has a fine future before it, as it already had in the past. My only thought was that it would be well if your son had his own private office, because it is difficult for a young fellow such as he to handle the shop from the "center of the plaza."

I run my office with myself in the room with all of my staff, but I do that deliberately because I am constantly calling one or more of them into conference. I want them to hear what I think; I also want to hear what they think. Out of this, I produce my best effort.

I enjoyed greatly meeting with many of your business friends. Of course, some of them I already have known; but others, such as Mr. Boswell, I did not know, and meeting them was delightful. I plan to look them up in Boston.

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Mr. Earl Thacker
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April 14, 1959

Hawaii has quite a future. I would watch the real estate business closely. This is the opinion, of course, of a sailor who doesn't know a dam thing about it. Nevertheless, I noted that there are contrary pressures working in different directions; and if one gets on the wrong side, one can be pushed out. An example of this, of course, is Mr. Kaiser's projected development right over your ranch. This irritated me greatly, but it was to have been expected. In fact, I learned a lot of things in talking to you, to Betty Farrington, to Admiral Felt, to Admiral Hopwood, and finally here with Admiral Curts.

The Navy is watching all of this with what I think is a benign interest. It is my opinion that a lot of things are going to happen there shortly--principally on the island of Oahu. Many think that it will become largely industrial. I think that that is reasonably true for certain items which will be required in the Hawaiian Islands. Whether more than one steel plant will be required, I don't know, nor can I say it is needed.

There is a lot of excitement in San Francisco today because the Giants have been playing a ball game. Unfortunately, I think the Giants lost, which will break the hearts of most San Franciscans. My guess was that the Giants would lose because they ballyhooed them too much and made too big a scene over them yesterday. As Knute Rockne said, "The boys have been reading their press releases."

Perhaps, if the San Francisco press would be less ebullient and the people of San Francisco would not expect too much, the Giants could well be in at the finish.

I hope you will forgive me for not writing before this, but if I had, it would have been very short; and Earl Thacker gets nothing short from me, ever!

Finally, I want to say how nice it was to see Dorothy looking very well, and that your son, Dicky, was getting along in a most successful way in the field in which you have placed him. You have every reason to be proud of yourself, your wife, and your family. I am proud to know you, old boy!

With my warmest Aloha, and as ever, your old friend,

rwb/bjg

R. W. BATES
Rear Admiral, USN (Ret.)

0307

12 Mount Vernon Street
Newport, Rhode Island

April 17, 1959

Vice Admiral Stewart H. Ingersoll, USN
President, Naval War College
Newport, Rhode Island

Dear Slim:

I will be in Newport, probably before you receive this letter; but there are two factors that I wish to mention to you before I forget them.

The first and most important is that I was with Admiral Nimitz the other day and had a talk with him for about two hours on numerous things from Sir Francis Drake to who is the President of the Naval War College.

As regards Sir Francis Drake, the Admiral is on a committee which is trying to establish the location in Drake's Bay where Sir Francis Drake careened his ships and where he claimed the land in behalf of the Queen.

As regards who was President of the Naval War College, I told him Admiral Ingersoll.

He said, "Stewart H.?"

I said, "None other."

To this he replied, (this is the best of my recollection)

"He is a very able officer, and I am extremely pleased that a man of his caliber is President of the War College."

He went on a little bit more, but exactly what it was, other than highly complimentary, I can't say.

The Admiral was very concerned over the fact that my section had been closed. He asked me if I knew why, and I said that Admiral Burke had written to Admiral Connolly and said that it was budgetary.

He asked, "Are there any other reasons?"

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Vice Admiral Stewart H. Ingersoll, USN
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I said, "Yes, I had heard numerous ones;" and named a few that I had heard, quoting Admiral Curts, Admiral Piarie, and others.

Admiral Nimitz then said that he was very concerned about it being stopped and that it would be reopened presently, he was sure. However, he said not to use him in any way for the present.

From this, I presume that the Admiral may be planning to do something on his own, but I don't know.

I was awfully glad to note that you are getting along well and that the College is up to a satisfactory peak. If it were not, I could have sensed it in your letter.

I am leaving Saturday night, April 18, 1959, for the East by United Airlines; and I should be in Newport on Sunday.

Naturally, I will bust out to see you; and I hope by that time that you and your Mrs. are together again and that her trip to Florida has been a great value.

With many thanks for your letter, and with best regards, I am

Very truly yours,

R. W. BATES
Rear Admiral, USN (Ret.)

rwb/bjg

0309

12 Mount Vernon Street
Newport, R. I.
April 27, 1959

Dear Sam:

Since returning to Newport I have learned that Admiral Oldendorf's objections to your book "Leyte" had to do in part with my prominence in that volume.

I am most unhappy about this because if you will recall I asked you to leave me out of your book. I did this because I had heard from Admiral Anderson that you had given me some friendly words and I felt that this was unwise for several reasons. These were because (a) Admiral Oldendorf was my Commander at Leyte -- I was merely his Chief-of-Staff -- and to him should go the credit for his success there and (b) I felt that the use of my name might stir up a controversy which, in view of my books (War College Analyses) could well be of a negative nature since they are a study of command.

Fortunately, perhaps with your approval, Admiral Anderson went to the Norfolk area and had a meeting with Admiral Oldendorf, at Admiral Oldendorf's request, which appears to have cleared the air in that quarter. Admiral Oldendorf seemed to feel that somehow I had been sitting over your shoulder and guiding your pen. Although nothing could be further from the truth, he did not choose to believe it until he had talked with Admiral Anderson and had looked over my manuscript of the battle of Surigao Strait. Now he seems satisfied (to paraphrase Admiral Anderson) that the book is pure "Sam Morison" saying "I guess I charged Bates with things he did not do."

Since I had already, after publication of your book, spoken to you about the fact that I had been included too prominently therein, I have not mentioned it further in any correspondence with you, and have referred to errors of substance only. However, now that a controversy has arisen, I am writing to you to request that you remove me from any controversial position in your next printing. This I understand you are planning to do, for which I give you thanks.

Controversies brought on by your comments concerning the Commanders themselves are another matter. These comments are brought on by their honest beliefs that they know the facts. They seem to forget that it is possible they do not know the facts, for time dims all. Clausewitz has commented on this in his chapter on "Analyses" in his work "On War."

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Finally, I want to repeat what I have said before, i. e., that you have written a fine book which, when certain errors are corrected (including my inclusion in a too prominent way), will be a fine contribution to the history of that vital campaign.

With best regards, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

Rear Admiral Samuel Morison, USNR (Ret)
44 Brimmer Street
Boston, Massachusetts

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12 Mt. Vernon Street
Newport, Rhode Island
May 7, 1959

Vice Admiral J. L. Kauffman
President, Jefferson Medical College
Philadelphia 7, Pennsylvania

Dear Reg,

I suppose you are wondering why you haven't heard from me in view of the letter and speech which you sent me as of March 6th. However, at that time I was in the far West and moving from place to place so that your letter fell far behind me. I wish that I had received this letter because I have been in Hawaii where I remained for almost three weeks. There I had dinner with the Commander-in-Chief (Admiral Don Felt) and with the Commander, Hawaiian Sea Frontier (Rear Admiral Edwards Solomons). At these parties, I asked very definitely if there was any one from the War College there that I should meet. I met two officers, one Captain Church—the other, whose name I have forgotten. I asked them also if there wasn't someone around there that was from the War College during my days. To this they replied, "No. We are the only ones, we think, that you might know".

I, therefore, presumed that your son, Draper, was not there because had he been there, of all people I should have preferred to see him and this includes the top commands.

I have the greatest admiration for Draper and I am confident of his future success. He is a "chip off the old block" and although he operates in a different manner from you, he is equally effective in his own way. I hope when I hear from you, you will tell me that Draper was not there.

My stay in Hawaii was delightful. In addition to running around with the Navy, on occasions I dined with many of your old friends including the Dillinghams, Von Holts, Herbert Dowsetta, Robert Thompsons, Sara Wilder and many others. Sara Wilder is the mother of Kinow McVay, now known as Kinow Wilder. Kinow is quite concerned over the book "Abandon Ship".

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And now to your speech which you gave at the Episcopal Cathedral on February 21st. I don't know what you heard about your address but I think that it is fine and hit the point exactly. In my speechmaking, I have found that whenever you could bring in the personal factor, not only of yourself but of others well known, the public is alerted and when in particular you take a crack at yourself, the public likes that even better. You did that in your talk in one case where you said that Mrs. Kauffman made you go to church before she agreed to marry you.

I am here in Newport with nothing in particular to do except primarily to straighten out my records. I have many papers that are in numerous boxes and in a day or so I plan to go to Providence and purchase a decent file cabinet from Remington-Rand. In fact, I have already approached them about this. That, in itself, is going to be a difficult job. For forty-seven years, somebody has done this for me. In fact, one very charming and lovely lady told me over the telephone she would love the job but, by inference, thought it ought to be a life work. As usual, being a charming bachelor, I snorted.

I will be here when you get up here this summer and will look forward to seeing much more of you than during the past years because I never left the War College until about 1800. I think this will hold us all for the present except to say I went to Jamestown this week to the christening of Frank Balsley's youngest daughter, Mary. She was a scream--never yelled at all and tore the veil being worn by the godmother. By the way, the godmother wore the veil for this express purpose, feeling if she could attract the child's attention, the water etc. would be of no concern. It proved out to be right.

With best regards and many thanks for everything and regrets I did not see you in Detroit, your old friend

12 Mt. Vernon Street
Newport, Rhode Island
May 7, 1959

Vice Admiral Ralph Wilson
OP 04 Office of the Chief
of Naval Operations
Pentagon
Arlington, Virginia

Dear Ralph,

I received a letter while I was in the Hawaiian Islands from our friend, Judge Eller asking me about continuing to write my volumes on Leyti Golf. He gave me a lot of questions to answer. I thought it would be better to go to Washington and talk it over with him, but instead he wants the answers in writing first.

I suppose you are familiar with these questions and so I won't bother you with them, excepting to say in my own mind the proper way to handle this whole affair, if it is continued, is via some college. That is I, for example, if I were called upon to do it, would have a contract with some college which would have a grant for this from some foundation. This would obviate any concern over the retirement provisions concerning working for the government while on retired pay status.

Admiral Richard Connolly, Dick Connolly to both of us, wants this job and suggested it to Admiral Burke some months ago. Admiral Burke replied he thought they got as much as they wanted now and that the old thing budgetary—i.e. there was no money. Admiral Eller and I am sure you, as well as Admirals Nimitz, Spruance, Curts, etc. all feel that it should be done. I spoke to Admiral Nimitz about this the other day and he was quite concerned about this and said it would be completed. I am going to write the Admiral a letter shortly. By the way, Admiral Nimitz looked fine on the Coast and I hope your Admiral, Admiral Halsey, is also in good shape. Admiral Spruance asked about Admiral Halsey and I think Admiral Nimitz did as well.

I am back in Newport where I am primarily engaged in studying and clearing my papers of many years. I suggest before you retire you have a lot of this done by your Staff. I did, but not enough.

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I am going to Global Strategy as a guest of the Naval War College—perhaps I shall see you there.

With warmest personal regards, I am, as ever

Your old friend,

R. W. Bates

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12 Mt. Vernon Street
Newport, Rhode Island
May 8, 1959

Dear Miss Ganero,

You were extremely kind to have typed my letters for me and I have been wondering how to thank you for this. It was an unusually kindly deed and your whole manner throughout indicated a desire to be of service. You are a very helpful and charming young lady!

I decided on a box of Sherry's candy—Sherry's is the best made in America, so I have notified the Sherry factory in New York to ship you a box which I hope you will enjoy. Fortunately, there is enough candy there, I think, so you will be able to think more on my presence there than you might have thought of had the box been smaller.

Many thanks for your courtesy,

I am

Very sincerely yours,

Rear Admiral R. W. Bates

Miss Beverly Ganero
111 Sutter's Street
San Francisco, California

0316

12 Mt. Vernon Street
Newport, Rhode Island
May 8, 1959

Dear Joe,

This letter, although perhaps in your mind somewhat belated, is to tell you how much I appreciated the courtesy of your office during my stay in San Francisco and, in particular, the very kind and efficient services of your secretary, Miss Ganero. She was always very friendly and helpful and at no time made me feel that what I was doing was an imposition on her. I also heard her on the telephone on many occasions and I think you have a young jewel in her.

It was wonderful to see you and I feel very frankly that you represent to me a bit of the charm of San Francisco, and you have always demonstrated in your associations with me the friendliness and good will noticeable in those California born.

I have written you a letter relative to your friend, young Mr. Manning, which I hope will arrive in time to be of service.

I want to thank you for the privilege of your automobile, that is, the city automobile and chauffeur which you permitted me to use on the days when the car belonged to you as a Supervisor. Your driver was very helpful to me and the car, of course, is a beautiful new Cadillac. I was properly impressed and so were those who saw me in it!

Of course, you know that our mutual friend, Admiral Oldendorf, was so concerned about Sam Morrison's book on Leyte Gulf that he asked Morrison to send someone down to discuss the matter with him. Rear Admiral Bern Anderson from Admiral Morrison's Staff went down to Norfolk and on my return here told me about the meeting.

I think Admiral Oldendorf, as I told you before, was certainly justified in objecting to having me and the Staff given, in some places, a priority which properly belonged to him.

Since my arrival here, I have spoken to Morrison and have written him a letter asking him for heaven's sake to accept the corrections Admiral Oldendorf wanted, whatever they were, because to the Commander belongs the credit or discredit for success.

Yesterday, I received a note from Morrison saying that he is making the changes and that he admits that I had warned him not to write it the way he did, as it would create certain ill feeling. Mind you, in saying this I had not seen the volume and it was only when I got to California, that I got a chance to read my brother's copy in Sacramento.

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Admiral Anderson showed Admiral Oldendorf the War College volume which, of course, bears no resemblance to Admiral Morv'ison's book. In fact, throughout the book the credit is given to the Commanders concerned and the Staff is practically never mentioned. My books discuss the "Commanders" and it is only proper that on this basis only the Commanders be mentioned. I certainly hope that Admiral Oldendorf is satisfied now because, as I have said to you so often, I have a great admiration for him and he did a lot for me.

Captain J. Joseph Sullivan USNR
111 Sutter's Street
San Francisco, California

0318

12 Mt. Vernon Street
Newport, Rhode Island
May 15, 1959

Dear Slim,

Yesterday I received your invitation to the Annual Global Strategy Discussions and I am hastening to reply to it. Naturally, I accept it with a great deal of interest. I think and I have always thought that these Global Strategy Discussions were of great importance, not only to the students and Staff of the War College, but to those invited as well.

I think that your endeavor to reduce the number of repeaters to a limited amount and to bring in new people is one of the greatest improvements that it has had. Certainly if we are to get the idea of Global Strategy (and the Navy's part in it) into the intelligentsia of America, you can only do it by marked changes in the attendance.

I would like at this point to offer my services to assist you and the War College in any way toward the handling of or entertaining of the guests.

With best regards and many thanks for your invitation, I am

Sincerely,

R. W. Bates
Rear Admiral (ret)

Vice Admiral S. H. Ingersoll
Office of the President
Naval War College
Newport, Rhode Island

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12 Mt. Vernon Street
Newport, Rhode Island
May 16, 1959

Dear John,

I am back in Newport. How long I shall stay here I haven't decided as I am in a semi-confused status. I like Newport quite well but, in addition, I have four brothers on the Coast who, with their wives—believe it or not, are very critical of the idea that I would leave them and live in this God-forsaken area. There is some truth to what they say because the weather, as you know, hasn't been too good; whereas in California, the sun shines, the flowers bloom, the humidity is low and good will is high.

I am going to Boston on Tuesday. I have an appointment there at one o'clock with Dr. Sprague, my heart specialist, and I thought it might be possible to get in contact with you.

I would like to see you for two reasons. The first and more important is just to say hello to an old friend who has recently undergone a most unhappy, shocking and tragic experience. The other is to discover exactly what you are doing in your firm there, because I think that a similar item might be done out in California for another company. I am not saying I am going to fall for the thing but I am interested in a new company out there; and if a big company like John Hancock requires someone of your competence to help them out, it might well be that this company might require something similar.

I don't want you to be concerned about my heart. As you know, I retired years ago with a heart condition and I have it examined every year by the man many consider to be the finest heart specialist in the world. I refer to Dr. Howard B. Sprague, 1180 Beacon Street, Boston. At first Sprague, like the Navy, declared me 100% disabled—in fact,

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the Navy told me I had about four years to live. But that seems to have passed behind us now and improved knowledge of heart conditions tends to give me a better break. As a matter of fact, I feel fine and look fine—for me. The latter point is of interest. Dr. Sprague says in heart cases looks don't mean a damn thing.

I will call you on the phone on Monday and perhaps we can make an appointment. If we can't, I will be in Boston anyway. With best regards I am, as ever

Your old friend,

Vice Admiral John L. McCrea, USN (ret)
Vice President
John Hancock Mutual Life Insurance Company
200 Berkeley Street
Boston 17, Massachusetts

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12 Mt. Vernon Street
Newport, Rhode Island
May 18, 1959

Dear Mr. Kirsch:

I received your letter with interest and regret because I had hoped the orchids named after me would be in full bloom. However, the recipients say that they will be happy to receive them in non-bloom status—so if you will send them as ordered and send me the bill to the above address, I shall be very grateful.

I am interested in knowing whether you have any unusual orchids which might be shipped to this area, other than the ones above referred to.

As a matter of interest, the weather in the summer here is more rather than less humid; that is, there is a tendency toward damp atmosphere and the winters are fairly cold averaging, I presume, about 10°F from about late December through February.

With many thanks for your prompt reply to my order, I am

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. Bates
Rear Admiral (ret.)

Mr. Oscar M. Kirsch
2869 Oahu Avenue
Honolulu 14, Hawaii

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12 Mt. Vernon Street
Newport, Rhode Island
May 18, 1959

Dear Hine,

It was very nice of you to sit down and write me a note relative to what you are doing and the fine shape in which you find your family. It looks to me as if you are having a very interesting time in what you're doing and I have no doubt that you are of considerable value to the Command. As you well know, we thought a lot of you at the War College and I regretted greatly when you left.

I did like to know that you have been able to interest some of the officers in your ship in Volume III and in the Battle of Surigao Strait.

I have been in California for the past three months but I am now back in Newport trying to orient myself to the new status forced upon me by the dissolution of my Section. I received a wonderful letter the other day from Admiral Burke which, while personal in nature, was extremely complimentary of my performance to duty. I haven't seen many members of the Section excepting Captain Titus and Chief Sutphin. Both of them are working in a Section, a new Section, on advanced ideas in warfare which has been set up in our old office. They are having quite a time shaking down because it requires the highest type of creative thinking.

With many thanks for your letter and assurances of the high esteem of us all, I am

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. Bates
Rear Admiral (ret.)

James A. Hine, YN2, USN
Tactical Air Control Squadron TWELVE
U.S.S. HENRICO (APA 45)
c/o Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, California

0323

12 Mt. Vernon Street
Newport, Rhode Island
May 18, 1959

Dear Judge,

While I was in Hawaii, I had the good fortune to talk for awhile with your good friend and mine, "Jasper Holmes". I spoke to him about the two books that he was attempting to write—i.e., the story of the Coral Sea and the story of Midway. He told me that he had done nothing on them because he is too busy at the University. As you know, he is the Dean for Admissions and has been acting as President of the University and appearing before the Legislature for funds for the school. He told me that Commander T. V. Tuleja, USNR at Saint Peter's College in New Jersey was writing Midway. This greatly concerned me because, although I hate to say it, Tuleja is more concerned with getting out a book than he is with the facts of the case. I wrote to the President of the War College concerning the attack of VT EIGHT and because Lt. Gay says one thing that he likes and Captain Gray says another thing that he likes, he wants to accept those statements. I prepared a paper for Admiral Ingersoll in reply to Commander Tuleja pointing out what Lt. Gay said was not in accordance with statements at the time, nor were Captain Gray's ideas borne out by the facts.

Evidently, both of them have decided to go ahead and make Gray look better than perhaps he should appear in any writings.

I am not in any way opposed to Captain Gray, although I think he thinks I am. Actually, I sent Admiral Ingersoll correspondence which he had back and forth with Lt. Commander Tuleja, USNR. In these they took several cracks at me and Captain Gray inferred that it was only because of the assistance of some fellow called Bill that his reputation was saved.

Actually, I presume that he is referring to Captain William H. Ashford, who was on my Staff. What is the truth of the matter? To the best of my knowledge and beliefs, the facts are these as regards this latter point. When I was

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writing the Battle of Midway, the question of Captain Gray's conduct with his Fighter Group was taken up with many officers in the War College who were flyers. I did not rely on Captain Ashford's opinion alone because, although I was very friendly with Bill, he was very biased toward aviation and aviators. To my surprise, when I walked around the College (and the same thing exists today) there was considerable and some times violent criticism of Captain Gray. I felt that these people were also biased to a degree and I decided to put the facts as I saw them on the table without attacking Captain Gray. He thinks that he was attacked. Actually, most of those, if not all of those, who have seen the book or film feel he got a very fair deal.

I am telling you about this so that you will be alerted to the fact that it could well be that parts of Lt. Commander Tuleja's book are out of phase with the facts.

I am only writing this letter to you now because I happen to find it in my papers as I was preparing to file my documents in a new series of file cabinets which I have purchased from Remington-Rand.

I hope to be down in Washington one of these days.

I am not expecting the above information which I have given to be passed around—it is purely for your own information as a historian of the Navy and is, in a sense, in confidence as the letters to Vice Admiral Ingersoll from Captain Gray could be so classed as they were not addressed to me.

With best regards,

R. W. Bates
Rear Admiral (ret.)

Rear Admiral E. M. Eller
Historian of the Main Navy
Constitution Avenue
Washington, D. C.

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12 Mt. Vernon Street
Newport, Rhode Island
May 18, 1959

Gentlemen:

In your Volume LXXX, Number 4, October, 1956 of The Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography, you published an article by Milton W. Hamilton on "Augustus C. Buell, Fraudulent Historian". In view of the fact it is my understanding there is a film being produced now on John Paul Jones reportedly based on Buell's history of that gallant officer and the fact, for some reason, John Paul Jones is once again in the limelight, I desire to obtain about six copies of Mr. Hamilton's article. I certainly hope that these are in stock but if you cannot give me six, even one would be very much appreciated. I realize that they must be paid for so if you will send both the offprints and the bill to me at 12 Mt. Vernon Street, Newport, Rhode Island, I shall be very happy to pay the necessary costs.

I have never heard of your fraudulent historian until Rear Admiral Samuel Morison USNR, the eminent Harvard Historian told me about it. For your information, Admiral Morison is presently writing what he hopes will be an honest history of John Paul Jones.

Very truly yours,

R. W. Bates
Rear Admiral (ret.)

The Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography
Historical Society of Pennsylvania
1300 Locust Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

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12 Mt. Vernon Street
Newport, Rhode Island
May 18, 1959

Dear Jack:

Now that you have retired from head of the Navy League of the United States, I feel it necessary to write you a letter and tell you how strongly I feel about your devotion to your Country and your service to the Flag in that assignment. Evidently, from all sources, the opinion seems to be that you excelled and that the Country and the Navy have both profited by your superior performance of duty. I use the word duty advisedly because it is duty in the full sense. This word duty from the dictionary means that thing which a person ought to do; thing that is right to do. Certainly in your mind you felt that this was a responsibility and, in fact, an obligation. Had you not felt that way about it, you likely would not have been so successful.

I feel that though you are now no longer President of the Navy League, you will always maintain your deep interest in the Navy and in the War College. I know that Admiral Ingersoll is communicating with you pretty steadily and I am sure you are willing to give up some of your time as you did in the past toward helping out the College to make effective, in the highest way, the Global Strategy Discussions.

I don't know, as yet, whether you are coming to these discussions or not but I have been invited and I have accepted the invitation. It seems to me if you are any good at pool, that a little relaxation in that field up here and in doing something you love to do would be very acceptable.

I called your house before you left to learn (a) whether you had come through in a satisfactory manner at Mayo's and (b) to wish you well in your Navy League meeting in Philadelphia. To my delight I found out you had passed

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your physical examination in beautiful style and that you had gone to Philadelphia with that old Irish punch that you know so well how to use.

I am fine!

With best regards to you and to Mary, I am

As ever,

R. W. Bates
Rear Admiral (ret.)

Rear Admiral John J. Bergen USNR
40 Wall Street
New York, New York

0328

12 Mt. Vernon Street
Newport, Rhode Island
May 20, 1959

Dear Red,

I am very sorry that I have taken this time to thank you for your kindness in giving me a card to the Outrigger Club and in being otherwise quite friendly to me.

I remember well my old associations with you with the Morning Advertiser when I wrote "Yachting" and where, under the spell of your Hoomalimali and Bill Peet's strong alcoholic breath, I learned the art of being a newspaper man of limited scope.

No one could have been more pleased than I was to see your face at my hotel, The Kiaulani, and I was impressed with the fact that despite your arthritic problems you faced the world very gayly. You are quite a man! I enjoyed the Outrigger Club the times I was there although, very frankly, I only used it twice. One of these times I was a guest of the manager of the Sheraton Hotels there and the other time I went on my own. The Club seems to me to be vastly improved from the days when I was in Hawaii before and I think you all deserve a lot of credit.

I was interested to discover from the press that they had finally named Hawaii the "Aloha" state. This bothered me somewhat because I felt and had told Senator Lee and Betty Farrington and numerous others that the symbolism of the many bloods and races which make up the islands could not be expressed by the word "aloha". Everyone agreed with me about this and we had pretty serious discussions, however, I have to admit that I did forecast that the word "aloha" would be accepted in the end. I am kind of glad that it is so because I searched very hard to find a word which suited the situation and was never able to really find one. For example, I recommended

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"Polynesian" which wasn't quite enough; others recommended "melting pot" and names of that kind. Since all auto plates have "aloha" on them and "aloha" is in use and has been in use for many years, the choice of that word was wise.

I am sending you herewith a race schedule for our club here in Newport, the Ida Lewis Yacht Club. I have marked the principal races this year which embrace important factors. Last year, of course, we had the America's Cup, raced for by the British and which we won easily with the Columbia. This year we don't have too much. As you can see, we have the Annapolis-Newport Race and the New York Yacht Club Races off Newport. However, most of the races are local. Next year, it is not unlikely we will have the Bermuda Cup Race and, possibly, another International Challenge for the America's Cup.

Once again, thanks for all your kindness to me. Congratulations on your wonderful mental attitude toward life and upon your success in your chosen profession. As for myself, as you can see, I am back here in Newport trying to get organized after three months touring the West.

My very best aloha, I am as ever

Your old friend,

Mr. "Red" McQueen
Sports Editor
The Morning Advertiser
Honolulu, T. H.

0330

12 Mt. Vernon Street
Newport, Rhode Island
May 22, 1959

Dear Swede,

I have received notification from the Naval Academy that they have accepted a chair in your honor which, as I told you before, I was very happy to donate.

It irritated me greatly to think the football captains were not recognized by the Naval Academy rather than by the system now in effect.

Your plaque will have on it as follows:

First line: Harvey Edward Overesch
Second line: Vice Admiral, U. S. Navy
Third line: Class of 1915
Fourth line: U.S.N.A. Football Captain 1914

I decided to leave off any concept of a donor and just to leave it there as a symbol of what you represented to your Class, to the Naval Academy and later to the Navy. I hope all of this meets with your approval.

Although I wrote you a long letter about all of this, I want to repeat that I never had a better time anywhere than I had at Pebble Beach with you and Emily. As I said then, despite all of your honors and the various vicissitudes of life, you have hardly changed at all. You are magnificently simple in the manner of Admiral Spruance—a higher compliment than that I could not pay.

I have been working pretty hard here at the War College and in town. I am going to the Global Strategy Discussions which really begin next Monday and continue for two weeks, although the civilian guests actually arrive the following week. It is a highly interesting thing, as I feel that I was one of the founders although, of course, the President of the War College who at the time was Vice Admiral Donald Beary was responsible for it and for the decisions. The basic idea really came

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from now Admiral "Cat" Brown who is presently CINC SOUTH and, to a degree, from Rear Admiral John J. Bergen USNR recently President of the Navy League of the United States. The interesting thing about this Global Strategy is that it has been copied by the National War College, Air Force War College and Army War College. This irritates us to a degree because it takes a lot of possible candidates away from one or other of the institutions. However, it is all good for the Country.

Please tell me about your eye when you get a chance. The fact that I haven't heard anything from you, leads me to fear that things may not be quite as good as was hoped. I sincerely trust I am wrong.

With best regards to a great fellow and a wonderful wife, I am as ever

Your old friend,

R. W. Bates
Rear Admiral (ret.)

Vice Admiral Harvey Edward Overesch
Box 463
Pebble Beach, California

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12 Mt. Vernon Street
Newport, Rhode Island
May 29, 1959

My dear Mr. Wainwright:

Thank you very much for your kindness in advising Dr. Hamilton of my desire to obtain some offprints of Mr. Buell's strange biography.

I appreciate your offer to send me some of this issue should I need them. At the present moment, I don't because the need has temporarily died. I was questioning the script of a film but since I haven't seen the script and since the script has now been made into a film, I don't see what I can do about it.

With many thanks for your kindness, I am

Sincerely,

R. W. Bates
Rear Admiral (ret.)

Mr. Nicholas, B. Wainwright, Editor
The Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography
The Historical Society of Pennsylvania
1300 Locust Street
Philadelphia 7, Pennsylvania

0333

12 Mt. Vernon Street
Newport, Rhode Island
May 29, 1959

Dear Admiral Nimitz:

I certainly enjoyed my visit with you and I have told your friends here, notably Admirals Yarnell and Taffinder, of my meeting with you and the wonderful shape both you and Mrs. Nimitz appear to be in.

This was good news to them, because every one has a great affection for you and they hope that you will remain well, shall we say forever.

I noted in the Sunday Morning New York Times that the film John Paul Jones is to have its premiere in New York on June 16th. Since this film is dedicated to you and since Jones is one of our real naval heroes, I am looking forward to seeing it. It is my understanding that it is extremely well done and has met with the approval of both the SecNav and the CNO.

You will be glad to know that the Yarnells are really fine. I went to a meeting there the other day and both the Admiral and Mrs. Yarnell, while showing signs of age, were mentally quite alert and reasonably active. Admiral Taffinder, who has not been looking too well recently, now looks very well indeed. I understand that Mrs. Taffinder is likewise well, but I have not seen her.

I have read your pamphlet on Sir Francis Drake with a great deal of interest and pride. The interest comes from, of course, the fact that I have studied Drake for years and have long known of his place on our shores. The pride comes from the fact that you have been so interested and so active and so understanding as to put out such an interesting article, which I have no doubt, is pretty right.

We are getting ready for our Global Strategy Discussions, of which I am a member, where we have about 190

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top reserve officers—about 100 top civilians—and a number of top active duty officers, such as Admiral Gerald Wright, as members of the panel. This is done, of course, for the enlightening of student officers here and is the end of their course. It has proved to be highly effective.

Let me wish you and Mrs. Nimitz a wonderful summer and let me, once again, tell you what a joy it is to me to see you both and to see how wonderfully alert you are in all ways.

With best regards, I am

R. W. Bates
Rear Admiral (ret.)

Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, USN
728 Santa Barbara Road
Berkeley, California

0335

12 Mt. Vernon Street
Newport, Rhode Island
May 29, 1959

Dear Dick,

I received your letter of May 18th with a great deal of pleasure and I am looking forward to being present at the Post College Commencement Exercises on the thirteenth of June.

I have the cape but, of course, I do not have the cap nor the robe. Would it be possible to have one of your Staff get me the above outfit. My cap should be size 7 $\frac{1}{2}$.

I have delayed replying to your kind invitation because I was puzzled over going to the party that is being given for Mr. Feldman on the previous night.

I wondered whether there would be any chance you were going to this party and, if so, were you planning to drive back home that night. If you were, could I ride back with you. I also thought that I might spend a couple of days with you after all of this provided, of course, that your house is not full; otherwise, because of the heat I shall find it necessary to return to Newport.

The Senior Reserves are at the War College now and the visiting firemen will arrive Sunday and Monday, so the Global Strategy will be fully underway on Monday, June 1st.

I hope things are going well with you and Helen. Best regards, as ever

Your old friend,

R. W. Bates
Rear Admiral (ret.)

Admiral Richard L. Conolly, U.S.N. (ret.)
President, Long Island University
P. O. Box 247
Greenvale, L. I. New York

0336

9 June 1959

Dear Slim:

Now that Global Strategy is completed and I have had the privilege of being a guest there, I feel it only proper that I write to you to express my appreciation and to give to you some thoughts that I have in the matter.

But before doing so I wish to say that I thought that the Global Strategy Discussions were successful and up to the highest standards.

My comments, which I have divided under various headings, are as follows:

(a) Preliminary Information.

It would appear that this was adequate for those that read it. Some of the civilians had read a great deal of it; others had not. In my committee those who had read the advance information contributed quite well to the whole.

(b) Committee 14:

This was my committee. This committee was fortunate to have had Colonel R.L. Stallings, USMC, as Moderator. The Colonel was outstanding in this assignment. Having prepared himself thoroughly with many intelligent notes and broad reading, he was eminently able to control his committee so that, except for the first day when the members were "shaking down", the committee was kept on the general subjects scheduled and was not allowed to wander very far off the subject matter. The Deputy Moderator, Commander J.T. Law, was equally effective.

The members of the committee (civilians, Reserves, Staff and Students) provided a broad cross section of the more intelligent public and all helped to maintain the interest of the committee on the subject matter. Needless to say I was very pleased with my committee. If other committees were as effective as mine I am sure that much was gained by all. I would not change the committee system nor would I

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have more than our civilians in any committee as the Reserves provide an additional civilian source. Less than three civilians would seem to be unfortunate.

(c) Plenary Session.

I think that the Plenary Session was in general very well done and very well handled. However, it contained one departure from established usage which was so vital to my concept of the Plenary Session that I feel that I must comment on it adversely. This is the fact that no comment was permitted either on the committee presentations or on the individual presentations. This had the ill effect of denying one or more of those who disagreed a chance to express their views, and thus awakened the thought processes of the listeners to the disagreements.

If the time factor interferes, then I recommend that the Plenary Session commence at 0845 and extend if necessary to 1200 (noon). The completion time would be a function of the moderator.

(d) Entertainment Schedule.

This schedule was excellent except for the following:

(1) All committees should lunch in the Commissioned Officers' Mess (open). This has the advantage of permitting members of the committee to sit with other committees or at least to meet other civilians. I feel rather strongly about this for I feel sure that this is one reason why civilians attend. As it was I met very few of the civilians other than those in my own committee.

(2) The Thursday night ball should be stopped sharply at midnight (2400) and should not be permitted to drag on thereafter. A Notice to this effect should be promulgated in the basic directives. This will make it possible for the committee members to obtain a good rest before the Plenary Session commencing at 0845 (see (c) above.)

(e) Lectures.

I think that all five basic lectures (Ingersoll, Barnett, Carney, Acheson, Burke) were very much to the point were well received, and provided a fine background for the daily discussions. The Chief of Staff's introductory remarks were likewise to the point and well received.

(1) There is some question as to the wisdom of having the committees determine the "National Interests and Objectives" rather than to have them consider some already determined by the War College. The reason for this is that some sections got lost on semantics and much valuable time was wasted.

(2) There was a tendency in some committees to drop the agenda in order to listen to narratives by some members - generally a civilian member. For example one or more in my committee wished me to comment on Leyte Gulf and were upset when I did not do so.

My suggestion here is that since such narratives, while highly interesting, do not in general contribute to the discussions, all moderators be directed to endeavor to delay them until the lunch hour when over the luncheon table the narratives can be well and effectively told.

(3) At the end of each day Committee 14 prepared a daily summary of the day's discussion. A copy of this summary was made available each morning to each member of the committee at which time it was reviewed for possible improvement. It was not made available to other committees nor to the Naval War College.

Since this summary proved successful in Committee 14, it is recommended that all committees be directed to provide such daily summaries and further that a copy of each such summary be made available to the Naval War College. This would provide a means of indicating:

- (a) rate of progress of each committee
- (b) thought processes of each committee, ~~and~~
- (c) relative competency of each committee, ~~and~~

~~this~~ would assist the staff moderator in determining what committees, if any, required assistance and which were best suited to appear in the Plenary Session.

(C) Final Remarks.

Heretofore I have attended the GSD largely as an observer, but this time I attended it as a full-fledged participant. Therefore I feel that I am qualified to say how valuable I think that they are and how strongly I feel that they should be continued from year to year.

R. W. BATES
Rear Admiral, USN (Ret.)

12 Mt. Vernon Street
Newport, Rhode Island
June 10, 1959

Dear Admiral Pratt,

I am forwarding herewith an offprint from The Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography referring to Augustus C. Buell, Fraudulent Historian. I would have sent this long ere this but I did not receive it until the other day. I would appreciate its return as these are practically unavailable.

Admiral Sam Morison, the Historian, is now in Newport and I took him to lunch on Sunday. I spoke to him about this Buell write-up and about the Paul Jones film. He says that he had the chance to take a quick look at the script and he feels confident that most of the film was written from Buell's fraudulent story of John Paul Jones. I am saying this to you in confidence because I think you should know what Morison thinks. It will be really too bad if that is so. I told Admiral Morison what you had said about the writers visiting the Earl of Selkirk (?) but Admiral Morison snorted, saying, "what was to be gained from that". I hope that Admiral Morison is wrong and that your film is actually based upon the truth, rather than the unfortunate tales developed by our equally unfortunate historian Buell.

I am most certainly planning to see this film and I hope its premiere in New York on the 16th is very successful. Since the Navy has its background, in part, on the valor of John Paul Jones, I hope that at least this part of the film is well presented.

With best wishes to yourself, I am, as ever

Yours sincerely,

R. W. Bates
Rear Admiral (ret.)

Rear Admiral John Pratt (ret.)
2139 Wyoming Avenue
Washington 8, D. C.

0340

12 Mt. Vernon Street
Newport, Rhode Island
June 10, 1959

Dear Mr. Kirsch,

No one could have been more surprised than I was, upon my return to Newport, to have heard nothing from Mrs. Cary about the orchid I had ordered for her. So I called her house—she was away—and her staff said that an orchid plant had arrived.

Later I saw Mrs. Cary who, believe it or not, I not only know very well but had promised to send her an orchid from Hawaii. Evidently, she forgot all about this. She informed me that she had written to you to discover who had sent it but before hearing from you, she had learned that it was I. So there you are—all is well!

Mrs. Ingersoll has informed me that the "Admiral Bates" orchid had arrived. She seemed quite pleased to receive it but was concerned that no instructions had been received about how to care for it. I presume that you sent your instructions by separate mail. Who else received an orchid?

I hope to purchase other orchids as time passes. Thank you for your assistance in this matter and for sending me the Cary letter.

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. Bates
Rear Admiral (ret.)

Mr. Oscar M. Kirsch
2869 Oahu Avenue
Honolulu 14, Hawaii

0341

12 Mt. Vernon Street
Newport, Rhode Island
June 10, 1959

Dear Joe,

Global Strategy is over and since I was a participant for the first time, I was pleased to note its success. Certainly the committee that I was in was very well handled and I have written a letter to Admiral Ingersoll thereon. I not only wrote it to him but I went over and saw him, with the result that next year there will be some changes, more on procedure than on fact.

Your friend, Mr. Forbush—I say your friend advisedly because I saw little, if anything, of him—seemed to have done well in his committee and it was with regret that the committee reported he had left and would not be present at the Plenary Session. His committee told me that he worked very assiduously and gave a lot of his time to the successful pursuit of his committee's problems.

I am writing to you about this because I was a little disappointed that I was never able to find him, even though I went into his own committee. He was usually missing and the times did not cross. Unfortunately, when one is in a committee, if the committee is run as tightly as ours was, one sees very few other people there. This is one of my kicks and next year's plans will be made so the civilians will have a better opportunity of seeing one another.

I missed you, my friend, at Global Strategy but I think that my forecast was correct—there were very few here of the older group. In fact, everyone, so far as I was concerned, seemed new except Jack Bergen. He came as a civilian although he wore a uniform the whole time. He did this, I think, because he wanted to come as a reserve officer and it is not unlikely that he got himself credited for this service. Cushing and I played Bergen and Enos Curtin from his office in New York, three games of pool. Cushing and I won the first two by a wide margin but the last time we played, they won by a very close margin. Everyone was very happy about it—so that victory having rested on both sides, there was no bitterness. There never would be where Jack was concerned anyway.

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I hope all is well with you and your family. My regards to your secretary. With best wishes to yourself, I am as ever

Your old friend,

R. W. Bates
Rear Admiral (ret.)

Captain J. Joseph Sullivan USNR
111 Sutter's Street
San Francisco, California

0343

12 Mt. Vernon Street
Newport, Rhode Island
June 15, 1959

Dear Judge,

We have just completed Global Strategy and, believe it or not, two of Admiral Halsey's people were here at the time. One of them, Admiral Carney, gave a very fine presentation on military matters and the other, Ham Dow, who is now with Westinghouse, talked to me about the letter that he had written to Admiral Burke. He also told me that he had seen Admiral Burke about completing this project of mine and that the Admiral seems favorably disposed, providing the work would be done under a contract. The point of interest here is what kind of contract. Certainly a contract with the Government could not be what he means, unless it came from some fund other than the one which Burke claimed had caused him to fold me up.

Admiral Carney wrote a strong letter to Admiral Sam Morison relative to Morison's Leyte. I was not included as an addressee but Admiral Carney told either Admiral Morison or Bern Anderson that he wished me to have a copy.

In this letter, and this part I did see, Admiral Carney announced that I was very able in my analysis, that he strongly recommended that I (Bates) complete it and personally told me that having read my works, he had great faith in me and in my ability. What he did with this letter other than to send it to Admiral Morison, I don't know because Morison has no say as to whether or not I am to complete Leyte, although he might make a recommendation thereon. Carney also said something like this, "Bates is more intimately familiar with the Seventh Fleet operations than he is with the Third Fleet".

I saw Carney at Admiral Ingersoll's after his address before the GSD groups and I told him that I was quite interested in these latter remarks because Admiral Kinkaid had said to me, "how do you divorce yourself from the Seventh Fleet?". Upon this, Carney roared with laughter and said, "well, you're a SOB then from both sides". But he had to admit these two statements—one by himself and one by Kinkaid—showed that my books were probably about right. This was most gratifying.

With best regards I am, as ever

Your old friend,

R. W. Bates
Rear Admiral (ret.)

Rear Admiral E. M. Eller
Chief of History, Main Navy
Constitution Avenue
Washington, D. C.

0344

12 Mt. Vernon Street
Newport, Rhode Island
June 16, 1959

Dear Ted,

I received your card about your meeting in New York with Billy Schott and Tully Shelly. It gave me a kind of nostalgia because they are old friends and just to be with them would have provoked old and happy memories. However, I could not be there as I was in Global Strategy here at the Naval College. I was a member of the Discussions Group which kept me busy for two weeks and I feel that I profited and I hope that others profited from me. My college work is now largely over and I think that after awhile I will be available.

I should like to talk to Tully on the telephone but I have lost his address. Could you tell me what it is. I will do the rest.

It is very thoughtful of you to endeavor to hold the little group together and I appreciate your loyalty and friendship. You are quite a fellow and it is too bad that you are just far enough away so that I never see much of you any more. Why did you sell your Cape Cod estate? I know why but I am sorry.

As usual, the weather is very variable here and if I don't catch pneumonia, I will be lucky. The temperature has dropped 40° and though I like it, I am not entirely sold on it.

My present plans are to be in Newport for some time, with side swings on occasions probably to Canada. There are a lot of places in this area I have not seen and I am a little tired of Thames Street. However, I rarely see it so that is helpful. This City is moving

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out along Broadway and out along Bellevue, so that the crowded Thames Street of yesteryear is becoming less and less so. The Thames Street people are going to have to get on the ball or they will be forgotten. This is not original with me. This is the thought of a lot of people.

Take care of yourself. Let me hear from you from time to time, as I certainly don't want to lose you in the shuffle. Best regards, as ever

Your old friend,

R. W. Bates
Rear Admiral (ret.)

Mr. Edward Breed
165 West School Lane
Germantown, Philadelphia
Pennsylvania

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